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1 What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

2 <sup>Sub</sup> 1. In a system having at least one application, a method for executing a search  
3 from within the at least one application, the method comprising the steps of:

4 selecting one or more search terms within the at least one application;

5 activating the one or more search terms;

6 performing a search based on the one or more search terms; and

7 returning search results to the at least one application.

8  
9 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is  
10 selected from the group of: word processor; spreadsheet, database, image processor; web  
11 browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.

12  
13 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further  
14 comprises the step of automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-  
15 defined rules.

16  
17 4. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring  
18 the search.

19  
20 5. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of searching  
21 according to a context of the one or more search terms.

22  
23 6. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the  
24 search results.

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7. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the search results to the user without the user having to exit the at least one application.

8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the user having to exit the at least one application.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of the manipulating, by a user, the search results.

10. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

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1           11. In a computer system connected to a network, a method for performing a  
2 search over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

3               selecting search data within at least one application in the computer system;

4               activating the search data;

5               performing a search on the search data from within the at least one  
6 application such that the user is not required to open another application;

7               returning search results to a user within the at least one application, wherein  
8 the user views the search results within the at least one application.

9  
10           12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the search data comprises text.

11  
12           13. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further  
13 comprises the step of configuring the search.

14  
15           14. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further  
16 comprises the step of selecting at least one search location.

17  
18           15. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
19 performing the steps recited in claim 11.

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1 16. In a computer system having access to one or more applications, the  
2 computer system connected to a network, a method for searching over the network, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 within an application, previewing data within at least one application;  
5 selecting a portion of the previewed data as search terms;  
6 performing a search based on the portion of the previewed data without user  
7 input;  
8 caching search results from the search, wherein the search results are readily  
9 available to a user.

10  
11 17. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
12 performing the steps recited in claim 16.

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14 *add A2*  
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